



**For more information on the  
DBE program, visit:**

*[www.dot.nd.gov/divisions/civilrights/  
dbeprogram.htm](http://www.dot.nd.gov/divisions/civilrights/dbeprogram.htm)*

This program is administered by the Civil Rights  
Division of the North Dakota Department  
of Transportation.

*701-328-3116 or 701-328-2637*



608 East Boulevard Avenue  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0700  
*[www.dot.nd.gov](http://www.dot.nd.gov)*



## **Disadvantaged Business Enterprises** *(DBE) program*

Disadvantaged Business  
Enterprises, more commonly  
referred to as DBEs, are  
businesses owned by women,  
minorities, or other socially/  
economically disadvantaged  
persons that meet the certification  
criteria of the North Dakota  
Department of Transportation  
(NDDOT) DBE program  
certification guidelines.



# What is the DBE Program?

The North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) establishes an annual goal for Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) participation on NDDOT projects. Contractors or consultants bidding on NDDOT projects are encouraged to utilize DBEs for a portion of the overall project. The main objectives of the NDDOT DBE Program are:

- To ensure nondiscrimination in the award and administration of USDOT-assisted contracts
- To create a “level playing field” in which DBEs can compete fairly for USDOT assisted contracts
- To ensure that the DBE program is narrowly tailored in accordance with applicable law
- To ensure that only firms fully meeting 49 CFR Part 26 eligibility standards are permitted to participate as DBEs
- To help remove barriers to the participation of DBEs in USDOT-assisted contracts
- To assist the development of firms that can compete successfully in the marketplace outside the DBE program
- To provide appropriate flexibility to recipients of federal financial assistance in establishing and providing opportunities for DBEs.

## How do businesses qualify for the DBE program?

To participate in the program, a potential DBE firm must first be certified by NDDOT. To become certified, a firm must be a small business owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals, typically defined as women, minorities, or other socially and economically disadvantaged persons.

Certification is based on completion of the DBE application, a home office visit, and an oral interview. The application requires various forms of documentation to include: copies of licenses, stock ownership and or proof of ownership, equipment, resumes of principal owners, business and personal income tax returns, etc.

To initiate the DBE certification process, potential DBE firms must submit an application to NDDOT’s Civil Rights Division. The application request for DBE Uniform Certification can be found on the DBE homepage:

[www.dot.nd.gov/divisions/civilrights/dbeprogram.htm](http://www.dot.nd.gov/divisions/civilrights/dbeprogram.htm)



## DBE Supportive Services

The NDDOT has contracted with Bismarck-based Agency MABU to provide DBE Supportive Services. Agency MABU can assist DBEs and potential DBEs with the following:

- Technical assistance in completing the DBE application or recertifying
- Technical assistance to current DBE firms looking to develop and grow
- Orientation and training to newly-certified DBE firms
- DBE advocate/liaison.

Agency MABU is a DBE-certified business with first-hand experience in the application and certification processes, along with work serving government agencies, non-profit organizations, small businesses, and socially/economically disadvantaged business enterprises.



*For information contact,*

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